



## **Report of Accomplishments**

**Fiscal Year 2005**

**East Cassia Soil and Water Conservation District**

**Address 1361 East 16<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Burley, ID 83318**

**Telephone Number 208.678.1225 x3**

**Point of Contact Ken Woodworth, chair**

**Counties Served Cassia County**

**Legislative District(s) 27**

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### **Function or Conservation District Mission**

► The East Cassia Soil and Water Conservation District sets high standards for conservation of the natural resources within the district. We encourage cooperation among landowners, government agencies, private organizations, and elected officials to accomplish conservation goals.

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### **Natural Resource Improvements**

#### **Covering all of Cassia County:**

- 159 Best Management Practices in various stages of implementation or completed for Fiscal Year 2005.
- 75 active EQIP contracts.
- 176 current CRP Contracts covering 50,872 acres bringing \$1,599,752 into the county.
- General technical assistance provided to approximately 250-300 land owners each year.



*Almo Creek Riparian Project*

#### **Covering East Cassia Soil and Water Conservation District:**

- Almo Riparian Restoration 219 Project, in its' final stages, involving 8 land owners and \$168,800 in grant money.
- Approximately 54% of all Cassia County EQIP Contracts and BMPs are in East Cassia SWCD and are being implemented in various stages and involving both irrigated and rangeland improvements.
- Raft River at the Narrows Riparian Restoration Project involving approximately 350 acres with \$187,000 in grant money allocated.
- Maintenance Work done on Raft River Blowing Dust and Snow Control Demonstration Project Windbreak.

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### **Conservation District Priority #1 District Operations**

- Board meetings held monthly which are open to the public and the media. Review budget and financial statements. The 5-year plan is revised and updated annually.
- Met with elected Cassia County Commissioners to review the proposed budget as a basis for requesting county funding.
- Keep informed of potential or existing legislation that impacts the district. Draft appropriate legislation for presentation at the IASCD annual conference.
- Have representation to the Legislative Luncheon (Jan.) Division IV Meetings (Mar. & Oct.), and the IASCD Conference (Nov.)

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### **Conservation District Priority #2 Information & Education / Public Outreach**

- Co-sponsor / Host the Idaho State Land & Soil Evaluation Event for 4-H and FFA students.
- Prepare and mail Quarterly Newsletters to 814 local land owners, which includes an Annual Report of work activities accomplished during the fiscal year and conservation information.

- ▶ Provide information to school age students within the district on the Natural Resources Workshop Camp, Know Your Government, 5th & 6th grade Poster Contest , High School Speech Contest, Envirothon, and provide 2 annual Scholarship Awards, all reaching a total of some 800+ students.
- ▶ Planning a tour for 2008 which includes range, irrigation, and district projects.
- ▶ Held Annual Awards Banquet to honor a Cooperator of the Year and present other conservation awards.
- ▶ Manage the annual tree sale providing seedling trees for windbreaks and other conservation purposes.

### Conservation District Priority # 3 Water Resources

- ▶ Completing work on the Almo Riparian Restoration Project to satisfy TMDL goals. This project involves 8 land owners, and brought in \$168,800 in EPA grant money.
- ▶ Raft River at the Narrows Riparian Restoration Project underway covering approximately 350 acres and 5 stream miles along the Raft River. \$187,000 in grant money has been allocated.
- ▶ Keep current on Animal Waste Management practices and concerns. Support Animal Waste Composting efforts through conservation plans and providing information to the public.
- ▶ Improve water quality through reduced water erosion and dust erosion by encouraging good conservation practices through education. Some 159 projects currently underway in Cassia Co.

### Conservation District Priority # 4 Irrigated and Non-Irrigated Cropland

- ▶ Review and approve conservation plans developed by NRCS.
- ▶ 100+ volunteers helped with clean-up project on the Raft River Valley Blowing Snow & Dust Control Demonstration Project Windbreak located near Cottrell Port of Entry. (shown at right) →

### Conservation District Priority # 5 Rangeland

- ▶ Encouragement and education brush control, range seeding, pest control, fire control practices, drought concerns, stock water improvements, and planned grazing systems. \*This is the area where the majority of East Cassia's BMP cooperators are involved.



### Community Collaboration & Coordination

- ▶ Member/Sponsor of the Mid-Snake R C & D.
  - ▶ Member of the WAG and BAG Committees.
- Youth help clean out Windbreak*

**Synopsis of Assistance Coordinated for Constituents with Conservation Partners** - to plan, design and implement best management practices to protect, enhance, and conserve Idaho's renewable natural resources.

Source	Purpose/Benefit	Funded Amount
Cassia County	County Funding for District Operations	\$ 2,500.00
State of Idaho	District Operations	\$ 8,068.80
EQIP Contract Funding (combined with West Cassia)	Implementation of Conservation Plans	\$ 869,851.00
Grant money	Improve water quality on the Raft River Raft River at the Narrows Project	\$ 187,000.00
CRP (total for all of Cassia Co.)		\$ 1,599,752.00
EPA Grant money	Almo Riparian Restoration Project	\$ 168,800.00
Total funding:		\$ 2,835,971.80

**Idaho Conservation Districts assisting landowners & operators with their conservation choices.**